

OCA Record

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Legislative Highlights and Developments
July 1987

1. Title: Federal Employees' Political Activities Act of 1987
Bill No.: HR 20
Sponsor: Rep. Clay (D., MO)
Committee: Post Office and Civil Service
Status: Introduced 7 January 1987. Hearings held 3 June.
Impact: Would permit federal employees to participate voluntarily in certain political activities so long as they do not compromise the integrity of the merit system or the impartial functions of the government.

2. Title: Tax Reform Act of 1986--3 year recovery rule
Bill No.: HR 24 (HR 130, HR 398 et al)
(S 69, S 99)
Sponsor: Rep. Russo (D., IL)
(Sen. Tribble (R., VA)
Committee: House Ways & Means, (Senate Finance)
Status: Introduced 7 January 1987
Impact: The bill would change the Tax Reform Act of 1986 and restore the 3-year recovery rule benefit.
Outlook: Questionable because both Committees are committed to blocking changes to the Tax Reform bill, but possibly easier to deal with as a free standing single issue.

3. Title: Whistle Blowers Protection Act of 1987
Bill No.: HR 25
Sponsor: Rep. Schroeder (D., CO)
Committee: Post Office & Civil Service
Status: Introduced 6 January 1987. Hearing 10 March. Subcommittee approved amended bill for full Committee action 3 June. *Full Committee approved bill 23 July. Senate Governmental Affairs held hearing on S 508 similar bill on 31 July.

*new information

Impact: Identical to a bill passed by the House in 99th Congress. It reaffirms government support for whistle blowers and provides protection for those who expose fraud and waste.

Outlook: Will probably pass again.

4. Title: Computer Security Act of 1987
Bill No.: HR 145
Sponsor: Rep. Glickman (D., KS) et al.
Committee: Jointly to Government Operations and Science, Space & Technology.

Status: Introduced 7 January 1987. Hearings 25, 26 Feb; 1, 10 Mar. Mark-up completed 7 April by Government Operations, 13 May by Science, Space and Technology. Passed House by voice vote 22 June.

Impact: Authorizes the National Bureau of Standards to establish a program to increase the awareness of computer security. The bill amends a law which has a provision preserving the DCI's authority; therefore, we are not affected by it.

5. Title: Federal Pay Management Act of 1987
Bill No.: HR 386
Sponsor: Rep. Oakar (D., OH)
Committee: Post Office & Civil Service
Status: Introduced 7 January 1987
Impact: Provides for alternative systems of

compensation, expedited authority for federal agencies to increase rates of pay for certain occupations, particularly those involved in national security, who are experiencing difficulties in recruiting and retention.

6. Title: Optional Early Retirement Program for Federal Workers
Bill No.: S 42 (HR 818)
Sponsor: Sen. Roth (R., DE), Rep. Bentley (R., MD)
Committee: Governmental Affairs
Status: Introduced 6 January 1987
Impact: The bill has a provision that would impose

a personnel ceiling based on the number of people who retire early. This would not be acceptable and we will track this bill carefully.

Outlook: *Staff advises at the end of July that strong Democratic opposition to the bill will probably prevent it from moving.

7. Title: Parental and Medical Leave Act of 1987
Bill No.: S 249 (HR 925)
Sponsor: Sen. Dodd (D., CT), Rep. Clay (D., MO)
Committee: Governmental Affairs (Education and Labor)
Status: Introduced 6 January 1987. House Ed Labor Subcommittee approved bill 13 May. House POCS subcommittee approved 20 May.

Impact: Would liberalize leave policies for Federal employees in cases, for example, of prolonged illness of children.

* new information

8. Title: Integrity in Post Employment Act of 1987
Bill No.: S 237
Sponsor: Sen. Thurmond (R., SC)
Committee: Judiciary
Status: Introduced 6 January 1987. Judiciary Subcommittee favorably reported 19 May.
Impact: Prohibits Members of Congress and Government employees from attempting to influence U. S. Government policy and from representing a foreign entity for a prescribed period.

9. Title: Drug Testing for Federal Employees
Bill No.: HR 280
Sponsor: Rep. Ackerman (D., NY)
Committee: Post Office & Civil Service
Status: Introduced 6 January 1987. POCS subcmte hearing 20 May.
Impact: Places certain restrictions on drug testing by federal agencies.

10. Title: Bill to Ban Private Use of Polygraph
Bill No.: HR 1212
Sponsor: Rep. Williams (D., MT)
Committee: Education & Labor
Status: Introduced 24 February 1987, hearing 5 March 1987, mark-up 30 April. *Full Committee approved 9 July.
Impact: Agency and NSA contractors granted exemption at 30 April mark-up.

11. Title: HPSCI Intelligence Authorization Bill for FY 88
Bill No.: HR 2112
Sponsor: Rep. Stokes (D., OH)
Committee: HPSCI
Status: Reported out of HPSCI 13 May Rept 100-93
Impact: Section 6 establishes a 3-person Presidential commission to review intelligence community personnel systems. HPSCI staff indicates that we will not have to halt the progress of the Personnel Compensation Task Force.
Outlook: The SSCI does not favor this provision. This issue will have to be resolved when the Authorization bill goes to conference in September.

12. Title: Special Pay and Civil Services Improvement Act of 1987
Bill No.: HR 2091 (S 987)
Sponsor: Rep. Wolf (R., VA), Sen. Tribble (R., VA)
Committee: Post Office and Civil Service (Governmental Affairs)
Status: Introduced 9 April 1987
Impact: Provides for improvements in pay, retirement and other benefits for federal employees.

* new information

13. *Title: Voluntary Leave Program for Federal Employees
Bill No.: HR 2487
Sponsor: Rep. Wolf (R., VA)
Committee: Post Office and Civil Service
Status: Introduced 20 May 87. Hearing 4 August
Impact: Would allow employees to borrow/donate annual leave.
Outlook: Congress seems to have a favorable view of the concept.

14. *Title: Prompt Payment Act
Bill No.: S 328
Sponsor: Sen. Sasser (D., TN)
Committee: Governmental Affairs
Status: Introduced 7 Jan 87. Favorably reported out of Committee 19 May. Floor action could take place after August recess.
Impact: Would require federal agencies to pay bills more promptly or face mandatory penalties.
Outlook: Favorable on the Senate side, House outlook is unclear.

15. *Title: Establish a simplified management system for federal employees.
Bill No.: HR 2966
Sponsor: Rep. Taylor (R., MO)
Committee: Post Office and Civil Service
Status: Introduced 15 July 87
Impact: One of many bills to improve, modernize the federal personnel system but this probably has the approval of the administration.

16. *Title: To improve the pay comparability of federal employees.
Bill No.: HR 3132
Sponsor: Rep. Ackerman (D, NY)
Committee: Post Office and Civil Service
Status: Introduced 6 August 87
Impact: This bill is significant because the sponsor, Rep. Ackerman, heads the subcommittee in Post Office and Civil Service that will hold the hearings on it. In effect it is the Committee's bill.
Outlook: Congress will spend another year considering personnel improvement bills such as this one before any sweeping legislative changes are made, according to informed staffers.

Office of Congressional Affairs

* new information

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